

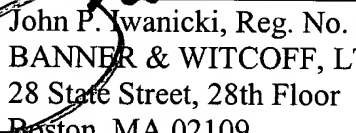
REMARKS

Claims 1-34 are presently pending in the application. At page 2 of the instant Office Action, the Examiner has required restriction between two groups of inventions, namely claims 1-16 and 32-34, drawn to a closure for use with signal transmission devices (Group I), classified in Class 385, subclass 147; and claims 17-31, drawn to a method for protecting a splice of signal transmission device (Group II), classified in Class 385, subclass 92.

Without acquiescing to the Examiner's restriction requirement, Applicant elects the invention of Group II, claims 17-31 for prosecution on the merits. Claims 1-16 and 17-31 have been cancelled without prejudice to the filing of any appropriate continuation applications.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: September 9, 2003



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